

Daily temporary liquor permits  
(HB 1706 by D. Hudson)

DIGEST: This bill would have allowed the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to issue daily temporary private-club permits to holders of private-club registration permits, political parties, charities, and fraternal and religious groups, to allow them to serve alcohol at picnics, celebrations, or similar events.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The Governor said the bill would have created another way to serve liquor in dry counties without providing for a local-option vote by the citizens affected. "I believe that such decisions should be made by the citizens of those communities rather than by the Legislature of this state," the Governor said.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. David Hudson said the bill did not require a local-option vote because the temporary permit it proposed was very limited: It would be good for only one day. Rep. Hudson said it was the first time one of his bills had been vetoed, adding, "I am frustrated by the process. I didn't have the opportunity to address the Governor's concerns."

NOTES: The House Study Group analysis of HB 1706 appeared in the April 17 Daily Floor Report.

Gasahol labeling  
(HB 1717 by Horn)

DIGEST: This bill would have required motor-fuel dealers dispensing a gasoline-alcohol mixture that contained 1 percent or more of ethanol or methanol to label the pump with the words "This fuel contains Ethyl Alcohol" or "This fuel contains Methyl Alcohol." The Texas Department of Agriculture would have adopted recordkeeping and other rules for administering the program and would have had enforcement authority.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The Governor said the bill would have created "excessive regulation" and "needless bureaucracy" without benefiting the public. Moreover, he said, funds were not provided for the program in the appropriations bill.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. Horn said that since gasahol can damage a car's fuel system, the bill would have benefited the public by alerting motorists when the gasoline they are purchasing contains alcohol. He said everybody endorsed the bill and noted that 33 other states already require such labeling. "I don't have any earthly idea why he (Gov. White) vetoed it," said Rep. Horn.

NOTES: The House Study Group analysis of HB 1717 appeared in the May 1 Daily Floor Report.

Penal Code definition of a bet  
(HB 1776 by Messer)

DIGEST: This bill would have excluded from the definition of a "bet" in sec. 47.01 of the Penal Code an offer of merchandise worth \$25 or less by a proprietor of a bona fide carnival contest conducted at a carnival sponsored by specified types of nonprofit groups.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The Governor said the definition in this bill would make it possible for virtually any contest to escape prosecution. He called the bill "vague" and said it would hamper prosecution of persons who run dishonest, weighted or other illegal gambling operations.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. Messer was unavailable for comment.

NOTES: In 1983 a similar bill, SB 482 by Harris, passed the Legislature but was vetoed by the Governor. The House Study Group analysis of HB 1776 appeared in the April 29 Daily Floor Report.

Load limits for ready-mixed concrete trucks  
(HB 2153 by Richardson)

DIGEST: Under current law vehicles designed to transport concrete that has already been mixed may carry a tandem-axle load of up to 44,000 pounds on the state's public highways after filing a \$15,000-surety bond with the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation. Other tandem-axle vehicles (including